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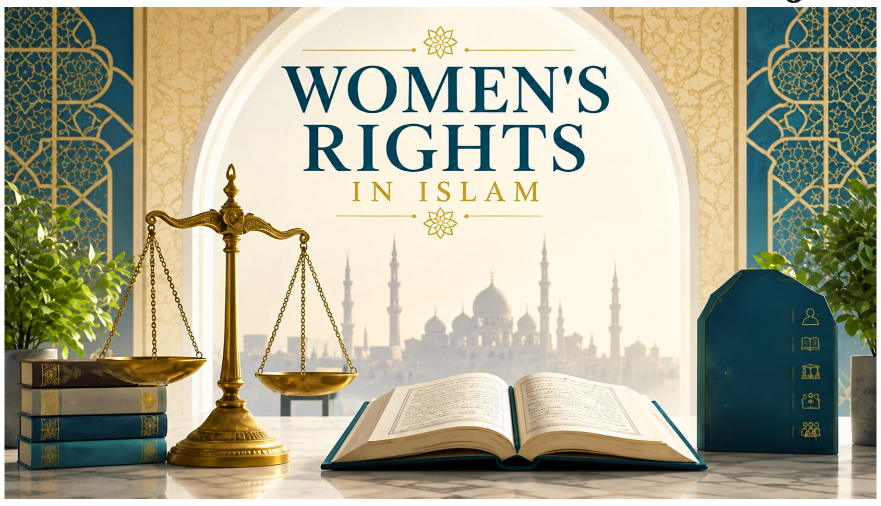
Afghan Women's Rights Protected Under Islamic Sharia, Mujahid



KABUL: Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, said that women's rights in Afghanistan are safeguarded in accordance with Islamic law, responding to the Ninth Ministerial Conference on Women of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Islamabad."The Islamic Emirate considers itself responsible for ensuring the rights and needs of women within the framework of Sharia," Mujahid said, stressing that all rights granted to women by Islam are recognized and protected under the current administration."Afghanistan is governed according to Islamic principles, and the country's religious scholars have sufficient knowledge of Islamic rulings and women's rights. Therefore, the Islamic Emirate cannot accept demands influenced by Western culture or organizations that, in its view, are inconsistent with Islamic values," he said."The Islamic Emirate is composed of Islamic scholars who are well aware of Islamic law and women's rights. We are committed to safeguarding these rights in accordance with Sharia," Mujahid said.

The remarks came in response to the Ninth OIC Ministerial Conference on Women, hosted by Pakistan in Islamabad with the theme of women's empowerment. Representatives from the OIC's 57 member states, including women ministers and senior government officials, attended the meeting to discuss issues related to women's development and future opportunities.

The Kabul Times

Interior Minister Meets Families of Victims of Recent Pakistani Strike in Paktia

KABUL: The country's Interior Minister Khalifa Sirajuddin Haqqani has visited the families of civil-

ians killed and injured in the recent Pakistani strike in Chamkani district of Paktia Province, expressing condolences and assuring them of continued government assistance.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement on the other day that Haqqani met with relatives of the victims and survivors of the attack, offering his sympathy and reaffirming the Islamic Emirate's commitment to supporting the affected families.

During the meeting, one member of the victims' families said that all those killed in the strike were civilians, adding that women and children constituted the majority of the casualties.Local elders and residents thanked the Islamic Emirate for the assistance already provided and called for continued support to families who lost loved ones or suffered injuries in the attack.

Haqqani assured the families that the government would continue to stand beside them and provide the necessary humanitarian assistance and support.

The Kabul Times

Khalid Hanifi Urges Stronger Media-Government Coordination

KABUL: Shaikh Mohammad Khalid Hanifi, Minister for the Promotion of Virtue, Prevention of Vice and Hearing of Complaints, has underscored the importance of professional journalism, responsible reporting, and adherence to religious and national values.Speaking at a meeting with media officials and journalists in Herat Province, Hanifi commended the role played by the media in informing the public and said journalists should continue observing professional ethics, responsibility, and accuracy in disseminating information, the state-run Bakhter News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Respecting Islamic and national values should remain a key principle in media activities, he stressed, calling on

journalists to continue serving society with professionalism and integrity. The minister also stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between media organizations and government institutions to improve communication and ensure more effective information sharing.

The Kabul Times

Farahi Highlights Media's Role in Public Awareness, Responsible Journalism

KABUL: Mawlavi Mohajer Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, has underscored the vital role of the media in raising public awareness, promoting responsible journalism, and strengthening national unity, according to a statement from the ministry on Tuesday.

Speaking at a one-day seminar on enhancing the intellectual, ideological, and professional capacities of journalists in Maidan Wardak Province, Farahi said the media has a significant responsibility in informing the public, encouraging constructive thinking, and providing balanced coverage of issues affecting society.

"Journalists should adhere to professional principles and use their platforms to educate the public through accurate and responsible reporting," Farahi stressed, adding that the media should contribute to fostering social cohesion and highlighting issues of public interest in a responsible manner.

The deputy minister also emphasized the importance of increasing public awareness on key national issues through cooperation with relevant institutions and religious scholars, while encouraging journalists to continue improving their profes-

sional knowledge and reporting skills.

He said journalists should help explain to the public the events and consequences of the past occupation while contributing to greater public awareness on issues affecting society.Farahi also called for broader public awareness regarding the Islamic Emirate leader's Decree No. 17 through the cooperation of religious scholars and relevant authorities, stressing the need to educate communities about the harmful effects of undesirable social customs.

The seminar was organized to strengthen the professional capacity of journalists and provide practical guidance aimed at improving media performance across the country, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Special Court Confirms More Than 532 Jeribs of Ghaibi Baba Township as State Property, Justice Ministry Says

KABUL: The Ministry of Justice said in a statement on Tuesday that the Special Court for Usurped Land Cases in the Central Zone has confirmed 532.11 jeribs of land in the Ghaibi Baba

Township of Kabul's 17th district as state property after assessing legal documents and official records.

The statement said that the case involved more than 1,042 jeribs of land, of which 532.11 jeribs were verified as government-owned.

The land had previously been registered under the state's name in four cadastral sections, the statement said, adding that the case was initially referred to the Special Court by the Commission for the Prevention of Land Usurpation and the Recovery of Usurped Land in accordance with the relevant law.

Following a comprehensive review of ownership documents submitted by occupants, land registration records, and information from relevant government institutions, the court ruled that the confirmed state-owned land should be handed over to the commission so that the legal recovery process could proceed, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate Committed to Defending Sovereignty, Army Chief Says

KABUL: Chief of Army Staff Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat, in a video clip the other day, described the Pakistani military regime's recent attacks on Afghan territory as unacceptable, saying that no attack against Afghanistan has gone unanswered.Speaking on the recent incidents alongside the hypothetical Durand Line, Fitrat said Pakistan has repeatedly targeted civilians, while emphasizing that the Islamic Emirate has never responded by targeting civilian populations.He also rejected allegations regarding the presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) inside Afghanistan, stating that the group does not operate from Afghan territory.The army chief reiterated the Islamic Emirate's longstanding position that Afghan soil will not be used against any country, and stressed that no nation or group will be allowed to use Afghanistan's territory to threaten the security of other countries.**The Kabul Times**

ACCI Discusses Export Opportunities, Challenges with Dried Fruit Traders

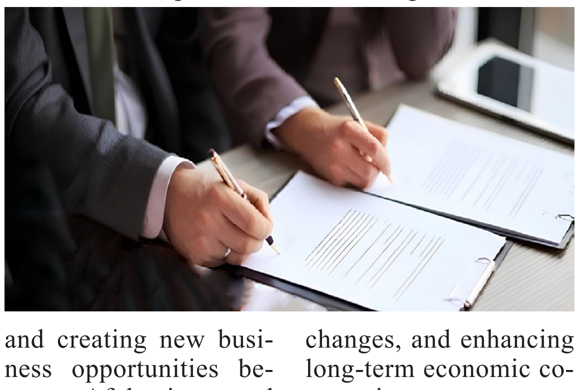
KABUL: Sayed Karim Hashemi, the Chairman of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI), in a meeting with dried fruit traders and exporters, discussed opportunities for expanding exports and addressing challenges affecting the sector.During the meeting, traders raised concerns over difficulties in obtaining visas and conducting international financial transactions, describing them as major obstacles to expanding exports, the ACCI said in a statement on the other day.

Hashemi reaffirmed the chamber's commitment to supporting the private sector and said efforts would continue to address the concerns of exporters through engagement with relevant institutions.He also stressed the importance of increasing Afghanistan's exports and strengthening the country's private sector, describing trade expansion as a key contributor to sustainable economic growth.

The Kabul Times

Kabul Signs 446.6 Million Afghanis in Trade Agreements with Russian, Kazakh Partners

KABUL: Afghan traders have signed commercial agreements worth 446.6 million Afghanis with business delegations from Russia's Dagestan and Tyumen regions and Kazakhstan following trade meetings hosted by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment.The agreements cover several key sectors, including construction materials, pharmaceuticals, food products, and agricultural services, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment said in a statement on Tuesday.ACCI described the contracts as an important step toward expanding regional trade, strengthening economic cooperation,



and creating new business opportunities between Afghanistan and its regional partners.

The agreements were concluded at the end of a series of business meetings aimed at promoting investment, increasing trade exchanges, and enhancing long-term economic cooperation.

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Defusing Iran–U.S. Crisis for Regional Stability

The recent escalation between Iran and the United States has pushed their fragile understanding into what officials in Tehran describe as a "crisis phase." At the heart of this confrontation lies not only accusations of broken commitments but also military exchanges that have widened the scope of conflict across the region. With strikes and counterstrikes reported in Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan, the situation has moved beyond rhetoric into dangerous territory.

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most vital energy corridors, has become the symbolic and strategic focal point of this dispute. The Islamic Republic says that it has closed the waterway in response to U.S. military activity, while Washington insists it remains open and operational. This clash of narratives underscores the fragility of global energy security. Analysts warn that prolonged instability could disrupt oil and gas flows, driving up costs and deepening economic uncertainty worldwide.

What began as a dispute over nuclear ambitions has now shifted into a struggle over access and control of maritime trade routes. As one former U.S. State Department analyst observed, the irony is stark as billions of dollars are being spent to "reopen" something that was already functioning before the conflict began. This highlights the futility of escalation, resources are drained, yet the original problem remains unresolved.

The consequences of unchecked tension are clear. Regional security is at risk, and the economic fallout could be severe. For countries already grappling with inflation and fragile growth, further instability in energy markets would be devastating. The crisis threatens not only Iran and the United States but also the broader Middle East and the global economy.

It is precisely at this juncture that regional actors must step forward. Arab states, in particular, have both the proximity and the influence to play a constructive role. Rather than adding fuel to the fire, they should act as mediators, fostering dialogue and encouraging restraint. Their involvement could help shift the dynamic from confrontation to cooperation, paving the way for sustainable peace.

De-escalation, transparency, and renewed diplomacy is the only way to reach peace. Iran insists it has acted in good faith in past negotiations, and this claim, whether contested or not, offers a foundation for re-engagement. The United States, too, must recognize that military solutions alone cannot secure long-term stability. Both sides need to return to the negotiating table, guided by national interests but tempered by the recognition that regional peace is a shared necessity.

Ultimately, the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz is not just about ships and oil. It is about the future of a region that has endured decades of conflict. If tensions are not contained, the repercussions will ripple far beyond the Middle East. But if regional states step into the role of peacemakers, they can help transform a moment of peril into an opportunity for lasting security.

How Torkham Became a Pathway for Life-Saving Assistance

By: Ghulam Reza Omidi

On July 14, 2026, a convoy of 26 World Food Programme (WFP) trucks carrying essential food supplies and humanitarian assistance crossed into Afghanistan through the Torkham crossing from Pakistan.

While the arrival of aid is fundamentally about keeping people alive, the journey of these trucks also highlights the complex realities of transit management, regional relations, and humanitarian cooperation.

Situated along one of the most critical arteries connecting Central and South Asia, Torkham has long been a vital gateway for trade, travel, and relief operations.

However, since October 2025, heightened security concerns and diplomatic friction between Afghanistan and Pakistan have choked off regular commercial traffic through the crossing.

Against this backdrop, authorizing these humanitarian shipments is a crucial effort to keep life-saving aid moving to Afghan communities in desperate need.

Getting the convoy moving required intense coordination between authorities and relief agencies.

The 26 trucks, loaded with staple supplies like cooking oil and high-energy biscuits, had to navigate thorough security inspections and customs clearance before finally receiving the green light. The decision highlights a pragmatic, shared understanding that human survival must be insulated from broader political and security standoffs.

Local reports suggest this is just the beginning, with more than 50 aid trucks expected to complete the transit during this initial phase.

The timing could not be more critical. Afghanistan is currently weathering a severe humanitarian crisis driven by economic collapse, climate shocks, and a steep drop in international funding.

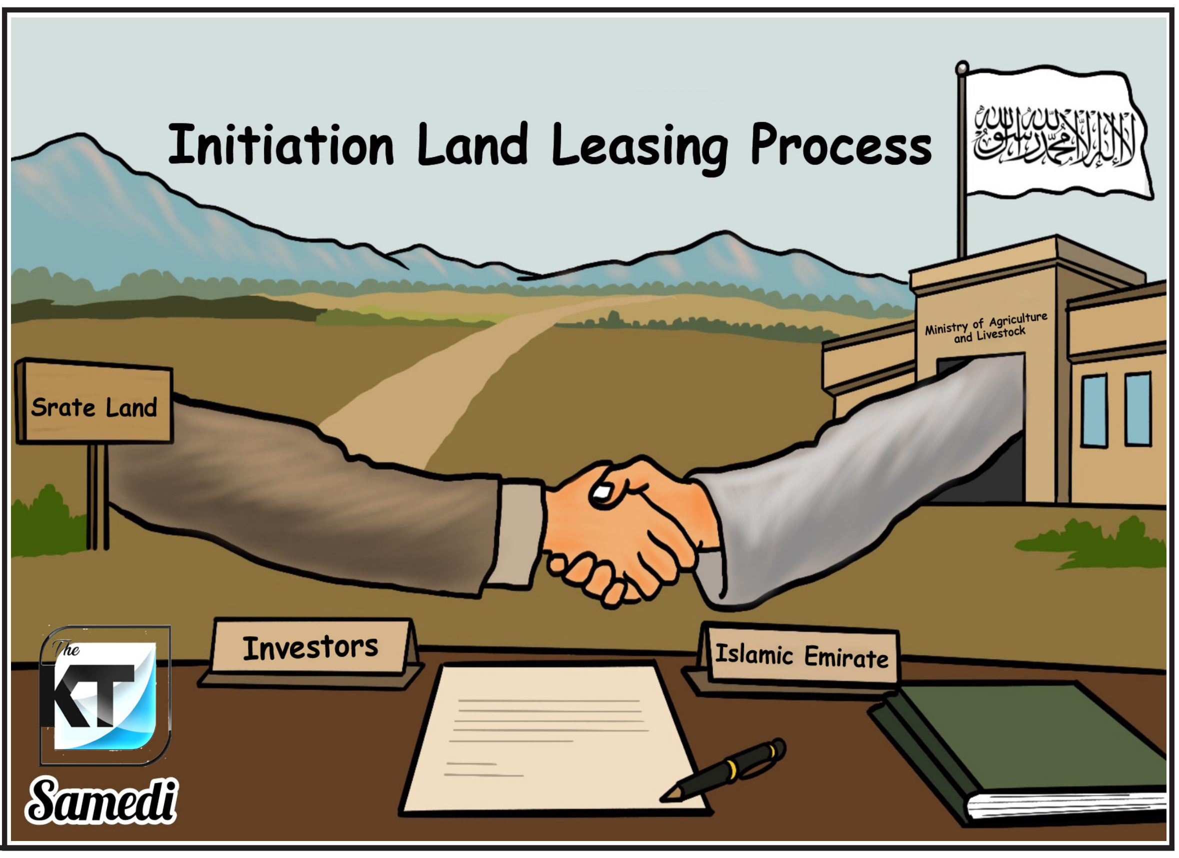
Millions of people, including young children, are facing acute hunger and malnutrition. This strain is compounded by the steady influx of returning migrants from neighboring territories, putting immense pressure on local communities that are already stretched to their absolute limits.

For the WFP and other aid organizations, Torkham is far more than a simple transit point; it is a lifeline. Compared to the grueling, expensive northern routes, the Torkham corridor offers a direct, highly practical pathway that allows relief supplies to reach vulnerable families before crisis turns into catastrophe.

This resumption of aid transit occurs against a backdrop of deep strain in bilateral relations. Severe restrictions on movement and trade at the crossing over the last several months underscore how vital continuous dialogue remains between the two neighbors.

When Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar announced that UN humanitarian transit would begin on July 14, it signaled a rare moment of coordinated cooperation between Islamabad, Kabul, and international aid agencies. For the Islamic Emirate, facilitating this assistance is a pragmatic step to relieve pressure on communities hit hardest by the ongoing crisis. Working with international relief agencies provides a vital channel for aid delivery, allowing Kabul to address immediate domestic hunger while maintaining its focus on national sovereignty and administrative control.

The successful passage of this convoy proves that humanitarian pathways can remain open even during deep diplomatic freezes. Pakistan's willingness to facilitate the transit of international aid, combined with Afghanistan's cooperation in receiving it, shows that preserving human life can still take precedence over regional friction. While this agreement is strictly limited to relief shipments and does not signal a return to normal commercial trade, it is a significant step forward. Keeping these channels open could help rebuild fractured trust and pave the way for more consistent cooperation between the two neighbors. As long as Afghanistan faces these steep humanitarian challenges, maintaining reliable transit routes and constructive engagement will be essential for keeping vulnerable populations alive and fostering regional stability.



On the occasion of World Youth Skills Day

Time to Invest in Equipping Youth with Technical Skills

By: Mashal Noori

Every year on 15 July, World Youth Skills Day celebrates the importance of equipping young people with the skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

The day also provides an opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training institutions, the private sector, authorities and development partners on the role of skills in shaping inclusive and sustainable societies.

The world of work is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence, the green transition and growing social complexity are transforming how we learn, work and participate in society. To thrive in this changing landscape, young people need more than technical skills alone. They need a balanced set of competencies that combines technical, digital, AI, green, social-emotional and civic skills with the human qualities that technology cannot replace. Under the theme "Skills for a shared future", activities will focus on the need to develop innovative youth skills programs that prepare young people to successfully participate in societies and economies, where they can lead with empathy, communicate across cultures, build resilience and contribute to a better future. In Afghanistan, 63% of the country's population is made up of young people below the age of 24. Young people can play an effective role in their communities just when they all have access to proper opportunities.

With the Islamic Emirate takeover, efforts have been made to provide some necessary opportunities to work and get education, but there are still increasing challenges facing the country's youth.

The more they are supported through creating jobs and educational opportunities, the more they could develop and serve the country. It is time to invest in and further support the country's young people as continued support to the youth can help build a stronger future for Afghanistan. it is also time for the country's youth to equip themselves with the skills needed to remain competitive and go forward. They should equip themselves with AI and technical skills that allow them to bypass geographic barriers, participate in the digital economy, and build sustainable, productive livelihoods. As artificial intelligence continues to advance across the world businesses and industries, Afghan youth must learn how and when to use it, not only in today's workplace but also for jobs of the future. AI is becoming an important workforce development skill in today's world; therefore, we want our youth across Afghanistan to be beyond ready for their future.Empowering the youth requires transitioning from inspiration to structured, actionable opportunities. When Afghan young people, mostly facing challenges, including unemployment, limited access to education and higher learning opportunities, as well as poverty, gain access to resources, mentorship, and decision-making platforms, they drive economic and social progress. Let's support them, provide them with all necessary opportunities, mentor them and pave the way for a future where they can succeed because in today's rapidly evolving world, preparing our youth for the future is more crucial than ever. Our youth should also know that their time is now, so they should not wait until tomorrow to realize their potential. Young people have both the energy and time to compound their knowledge. Waiting for tomorrow wastes today's opportunities, and the future belongs to those who actively prepare.

Balkh Hosts Afghanistan's First Private Fuel Testing Center

By: Atiqa Arian

A private firm has recently inaugurated a $1 million fuel testing laboratory in Balkh province, marking a significant step toward strengthening Afghanistan's industrial and commercial infrastructure. The facility, equipped with more than 30 advanced machines, is designed to test the quality of petroleum products in accordance with international standards. Its establishment reflects a growing trend of private investment in Afghanistan's energy sector, a development strongly encouraged by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which has repeatedly emphasized the importance of domestic and foreign investment in building the country's economy.

Yar Mohammad Noori, the company's director, explained that the laboratory houses 36 calibrated machines, all meeting international benchmarks. He assured that the center would guarantee the quality of fuel across Afghanistan's provinces. This assurance comes at a time when concerns about low-quality fuel in local markets have been widespread. By offering rapid and reliable testing, the laboratory is expected to restore confidence among traders and consumers alike.

The facility's scope is broad: it evaluates petrol, diesel, motor oil, and aviation fuel. According to company employee Bijan Muslim, the laboratory's advanced equipment allows for precise testing that was previously unavailable domestically. In the past, fuel testing was conducted by the National Standards Authority, often requiring samples to be sent abroad. This process was costly and time-consuming. Now, with the new laboratory, traders can receive results within two to three hours, a dramatic improvement compared to the two-to-four-day wait under the old system.

Local traders have welcomed the initiative. Javid Adalat, a member of the Balkh Petroleum Association, urged other entrepreneurs to follow suit, not only in petroleum but also in sectors such as food products, textiles, and paints. He stressed that Afghanistan needs a network of specialized laboratories to ensure quality control across industries. His remarks highlight the broader potential of private investment in diversifying Afghanistan's economy.

Fuel seller Mohammad Sadiq echoed these sentiments, noting that the new laboratory saves both time and money. He emphasized that traders no longer need to navigate lengthy bureaucratic procedures in government offices, which often delayed business operations. Instead, the private laboratory provides swift and reliable services, enabling traders to operate more efficiently.

Officials have underscored the laboratory's role in preventing the import of substandard petroleum products. By ensuring compliance with international standards, the center will help protect consumers, safeguard engines and machinery, and reduce environmental risks associated with poor-quality fuel. This aligns with the Islamic Emirate's broader policy of encouraging private sector participation in national development projects. The government has consistently called on investors to contribute to Afghanistan's reconstruction, promising support and facilitation for initiatives that strengthen the country's economic independence.

The establishment of this laboratory is more than a technical achievement; it is a symbol of Afghanistan's gradual shift toward self-reliance. By reducing dependence on foreign laboratories, the country not only saves resources but also builds local expertise. The investment of $1 million demonstrates confidence in Afghanistan's market potential, and it sets a precedent for future ventures in other critical sectors.

See P4

Tax Reforms Open a New Chapter for Afghanistan's Economic Growth

By: Nesar Ahmad Tareq

A strong economy is the foundation of every stable and prosperous nation. No country can achieve lasting development without productive industries, sustainable investment, expanding employment, and a fair financial system. Economic strength not only improves the quality of life for citizens but also increases national resilience, enhances public confidence, and creates opportunities for future generations. For Afghanistan, which is striving to strengthen its economy through greater domestic production and private sector participation, every economic reform carries significant importance.

Among the many instruments of economic policy, taxation occupies a central position. Taxes provide governments with the financial resources necessary to maintain public services, build infrastructure, strengthen institutions, and support long-term national development. At the same time, tax policies directly influence the decisions of investors, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and ordinary citizens. A balanced tax system should therefore achieve two essential objectives. It should generate sufficient public revenue while encouraging economic activity rather than restricting it.

Recent measures to reduce taxes for certain individuals and businesses, increase tax exemption thresholds, and lower property transfer taxes represent an important step toward creating a more business-friendly economic environment. While the ultimate success of these reforms will depend on effective implementation, transparency, and consistency, they have the potential to stimulate investment, encourage entrepreneurship, and strengthen Afghanistan's economic foundation.

One of the most immediate benefits of lower taxes is the increased financial capacity of businesses. Every reduction in unnecessary financial burdens allows entrepreneurs to retain more capital for productive use. Instead of allocating a larger share of their earnings to taxes, business owners can invest in expanding their operations, purchasing modern equipment, improving production facilities, introducing new technologies, and hiring additional workers. These investments create a chain reaction throughout the economy. New factories increase production, expanding businesses generate higher demand for raw materials and services, and additional employment strengthens household incomes and consumer spending.

The private sector has long been recognized as the engine of economic growth in successful economies around the world. Governments create the legal and regulatory framework, but businesses generate employment, produce goods, deliver services, and stimulate innovation. When tax policies encourage rather than discourage private enterprise, economic activity accelerates. Investors become more willing to commit capital because they can reasonably expect a fair return on their investments.

For developing countries such as Afghanistan, domestic investment carries exceptional importance. While foreign investment remains valuable, long-term economic stability depends primarily on the confidence of local entrepreneurs and domestic investors. When business owners believe that tax laws are fair, transparent, and predictable, they become more willing to expand their operations instead of limiting their activities. Predictability is often as important as the tax rate itself. Investors prefer an environment where policies remain consistent and where financial planning can be carried out with confidence.

Lower taxes can also encourage businesses operating in the informal economy to register officially. In many developing economies, high tax burdens sometimes discourage small enterprises from entering the formal sector. When tax obligations become more reasonable, more businesses may choose legal registration because the benefits of operating within the formal economy begin to outweigh the costs. This broadens the tax base over time while improving economic transparency and strengthening regulatory oversight.

An expanded formal economy benefits everyone. Registered businesses gain greater access to financial services, commercial partnerships, government contracts, and legal protections. Financial institutions become more willing to provide loans because businesses maintain official financial records. These developments improve access to capital, which is one of the most important requirements for sustainable business growth.

The increase in tax exemption thresholds can also provide meaningful relief to smaller businesses and lower-income individuals. Small enterprises often operate with limited financial resources, especially during their early years. By reducing the tax burden on these businesses, policymakers create opportunities for entrepreneurship to flourish. Many successful companies begin as small family businesses or local enterprises. Supporting their growth contributes to broader economic diversification and reduces dependence on limited sectors of the economy.

Similarly, reducing property transfer taxes can generate positive effects across multiple sectors. Real estate transactions play an important role in economic development because they facilitate investment, commercial expansion, and infrastructure projects. Lower transaction costs encourage greater activity in property markets, making it easier for individuals and businesses to purchase land or commercial property for productive purposes. Increased activity in construction and real estate often generates employment opportunities for engineers, architects, construction workers, suppliers, transport companies, and numerous supporting industries.

Another important advantage of tax reform is its potential to attract the financial resources of Afghans living abroad. Millions of Afghans possess valuable financial capital, professional expertise, and entrepreneurial experience gained through years of work in other countries. Many continue to maintain strong emotional and family ties with Afghanistan. If they observe a stable, transparent, and investment-friendly economic environment, they may become more willing to invest in businesses, industrial projects, agriculture, logistics, technology, and other productive sectors inside the country.

Diaspora investment offers benefits that extend beyond financial capital. Returning investors often introduce modern management practices, international business standards, advanced technologies, and valuable commercial networks. Their participation can improve productivity, strengthen exports, and create opportunities for Afghan products to access international markets.

Tax reform also sends an important psychological message to the business community. Economic decisions are influenced not only by financial calculations but also by confidence and expectations. Investors are more likely to expand when they believe that government policies support private enterprise. Positive expectations encourage businesses to plan for long-term growth instead of focusing solely on short-term survival. Confidence itself becomes an economic asset because it influences investment decisions, hiring plans, and production capacity.

At the same time, successful tax reform requires responsible implementation. Lower tax rates should not lead to weaker tax administration. On the contrary, simplified regulations, digital tax systems, transparent procedures, and professional administration can improve tax compliance even while reducing rates. International experience has shown that fair taxation combined with efficient collection often produces stronger long-term revenue than excessively high tax rates that discourage compliance.

Transparency remains equally important. Businesses need clear regulations that are applied consistently across all sectors. Equal treatment strengthens trust

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THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

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SPORTS

Unstoppable Gurbaz Smashes 11 Sixes in Stunning Mis Ainak Victory

Mis Ainak Knights produced one of the most memorable performances of the 11th Shpageeza Cricket League on their way to a commanding nine-wicket victory over Amo Sharks in the 18th match of the tournament.
Chasing a target of 166 runs, Mis Ainak made the task look effortless, reaching the required total in just the 11th over while losing only one wicket.
The victory was built around a remarkable batting display from their captain and Afghanistan national team star, Rahmanullah Gurbaz.
Gurbaz was simply unstoppable at the crease.
The right-handed opener delivered a breathtaking innings, smashing an unbeaten 107 runs from only 39 balls. His powerful hitting included 11 sixes and six fours, leaving the opposition bowlers with few answers. His explosive century became the fastest hundred ever recorded in Shpageeza Cricket League history and made him the first player in the tournament to hit 11 sixes in a single innings. It was also his second century in the league.
However, despite Gurbaz's extraordinary performance, the result could not change Mis Ainak's tournament fate.
The team managed only three victories from seven matches and failed to secure a place in the next stage of the competition.
Following the team's early elimination, Gurbaz expressed disappointment over their campaign and pointed to weaknesses in squad balance and team selection. He said that a stronger combination could have helped Mis Ainak perform much better in the tournament.Looking ahead, the Afghan star suggested that franchises should focus on building more balanced teams in future seasons.
He highlighted the importance of having a proper combination of experienced openers, dependable middle-order batsmen, and a strong bowling unit to compete successfully at the highest level.
Although Mis Ainak's journey in this year's Shpageeza Cricket League ended early, Gurbaz's historic innings will remain one of the standout moments of the tournament.
The Kabul Times

Shpageeza 11 CRICKET LEAGUE

A New Place to Play; Modern Futsal Field Opens in Pul-e-Khumri

A brand-new, regulation-size futsal field has officially opened in Pul-e-Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province, drawing local officials, athletes, and sports fans to its launch ceremony.
The modern sports facility was fully funded through a 5 million AFN private investment by a local businessman.For the youth and sports community in Baghlan, this new venue is a welcome addition. Local officials and athletes at the opening pointed out that the facility is a highly effective step toward building up the region's sports infrastructure. More importantly, they noted that it provides a safe, constructive environment where young people can stay active, connect, and enjoy healthy recreational activities away from the stresses of daily life.
By stepping up to fund this project, the local business community has provided a much-needed space that fills a gap in public sports infrastructure. The opening highlights how private investments can directly impact communities, giving young athletes in Pul-e-Khumri a proper place to develop their skills and pursue their passion for football.
The Kabul Times

Martial Arts Selection Events Wrap Up in Ghazni & Khost

The General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports recently shared a list of grassroots sports from across the country, showing a busy week of martial arts, futsal, and football tournaments wrapping up in multiple provinces.
In martial arts, Ghazni's Muqur district hosted a highly competitive Ninja-style selection tournament. Out of 75 eager martial artists who stepped up to compete, 13 top-performing athletes were officially selected to advance to the next level. Over in Khost's Sabari district, the first round of the Ashihara Karate selection championship came to a close.
The event featured 54 fighters from four local clubs, with Khalsabat Club ultimately taking home the top honor.
Meanwhile, team sports saw plenty of high-energy action. In Helmand's Gerishk district, a massive futsal tournament wrapped up after pitting 18 "C-tier" teams against each other, with Team Esteqlal securing the championship title. Finally, in the central Matun area of Khost, a major 16-team football tournament reached its grand finale after 20 days of non-stop matches. The Khost Police Headquarters team put on a stellar performance to lift the ultimate trophy.
The Kabul Times

Mawlavi Jamal, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires Discuss Expanding Tourism, Cultural Cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Qudratullah Jamal, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Tourism, Finance and Administration, in a meeting with Sadin Ayildiz, Chargé d'Affaires of the Turkish Embassy in Kabul, discussed strengthening cooperation in tourism, cultural affairs, and the two countries' longstanding historical ties.
Jamal said Afghanistan possesses significant potential for historical, cultural, and religious tourism, expressing hope that people-to-people relations between Afghanistan and Türkiye would continue to grow through expanded cooperation in these sectors, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.
He highlighted the importance of promoting Afghanistan's cultural heritage and tourism industry as part of broader efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and encourage greater international engagement.

Meanwhile, Ayildiz said Türkiye is prepared to share its expertise with Afghanistan in tourism, hospitality, tourism services, and human resource capacity building, reaffirming his country's readiness to support cooperation in areas of mutual interest.Both sides emphasized the importance of continued engagement to expand cultural exchanges and promote closer collaboration in the tourism sector.
The Kabul Times

Islam Promotes Personal Development, Social Unity, Shaikh Anwar Says

KABUL: Shaikh Noor-ul-Haq Anwar, Director General of the Administrative Affairs Office, has said that Islam is a religion that promotes personal development and strengthens social unity, emphasizing the importance of preserving the country's religious and cultural values.
Speaking at a seminar on enhancing the intellectual, ideological, and professional capacities of journalists in Maidan Wardak province, Shaikh Anwar said Islamic teachings are centered on nurturing individuals and building a cohesive society based on shared values and responsibility, according to the RTA on Tuesday.
"Some foreign media outlets present concepts of freedom of expression in ways that differ from Afghanistan's religious and social principles," he said, arguing that such approaches can undermine social cohesion and weaken unity within society.
Anwar called on media organizations and journalists to uphold honesty and accuracy in their reporting, stressing that reliable information is essential to building public trust and raising awareness.
"Journalists should ensure that the information they provide is correct, balanced, and serves the interests of the public," he said, underscoring the role of the media in promoting constructive public awareness while respecting Islamic and national values.Shaikh Anwar also added that responsible journalism can contribute to strengthening social unity and supporting the country's long-term development.
The Kabul Times

1,200 Returning Families Receive Residential Plots Across Four Provinces, Commission

KABUL: The Permanent Settlement Committee, operating under the High Commission for Addressing Migrants' Problems, distributed residential plots to 1,200 returning Afghan families in Nangarhar, Farah, Faryab, and Nimroz provinces over the past one day.
The land was allocated to families who recently returned from neighboring countries as part of the government's ongoing program to facilitate their permanent resettlement, the commission said in a statement on Tuesday.

The latest distribution increases the total number of returning families that have received residential plots nationwide to 59,548, the statement said.
According to the statement, the land allocation process will continue across the country to help returning migrants establish permanent housing and support their reintegration into local communities.
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Tax Reforms Open a New Chapter for...

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between taxpayers and public institutions. When companies know that rules are enforced fairly without unnecessary complexity, they are more willing to comply voluntarily with tax obligations.Economic reforms are most effective when accompanied by broader improvements in infrastructure, financial services, education, transportation, and access to markets. Reliable electricity, secure transport networks, skilled workers, efficient customs procedures, and access to financing all complement tax reform by creating an environment where businesses can expand successfully. Tax reductions alone cannot solve every economic challenge, but they can become an important component of a broader national development strategy.Afghanistan possesses significant economic potential. Its strategic geographic location, abundant natural resources, young population, agricultural capacity, and entrepreneurial spirit provide strong foundations for future growth. Unlocking this potential requires policies that reward productivity, encourage investment, and support legitimate business activity. Tax reform represents one practical step toward achieving these objectives.As businesses expand, employment opportunities increase. More employment strengthens household incomes, reduces poverty, and improves living standards. Higher production contributes to greater domestic supply while increasing opportunities for exports.
A growing private sector generates additional demand for professional services, transportation, communications, banking, and education. These interconnected developments reinforce one another, creating a cycle of sustainable economic growth.
The long-term objective of every economic policy should be to create conditions in which businesses succeed because success in the private sector ultimately benefits society as a whole.
Strong companies create jobs. Productive workers generate income. Prosperous households contribute to stronger communities. Expanding markets increase government revenues through broader economic activity rather than excessive taxation. This balanced relationship between public policy and private enterprise forms the basis of sustainable national development.The recent tax reductions therefore represent more than simple fiscal adjustments. They reflect an opportunity to strengthen investor confidence, encourage domestic production, attract Afghan capital from abroad, expand employment, and stimulate long-term economic activity. If implemented fairly, consistently, and transparently, these reforms can help build a more competitive economy capable of supporting national prosperity.Economic progress is rarely achieved through a single policy, but history consistently demonstrates that nations prosper when governments create conditions that allow businesses to invest, innovate, and grow. Afghanistan's future economic success will depend on maintaining such an environment. Fair taxation, sound administration, and unwavering support for productive enterprise can transform today's reforms into lasting engines of growth, helping lay the foundation for a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous Afghanistan.

Balkh Hosts Afghanistan's First...

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Encouragement from the Islamic Emirate has been pivotal in creating an environment conducive to such investments. Authorities have repeatedly emphasized that Afghanistan is open for business and that investors will find opportunities in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and manufacturing.
The Balkh laboratory serves as a practical example of how private capital, combined with government support, can address pressing national needs while generating employment and fostering innovation.
The new fuel testing laboratory in Balkh represents a milestone in Afghanistan's economic development.
It addresses long-standing concerns about fuel quality, accelerates testing processes, and reduces reliance on foreign facilities.
More importantly, it embodies the Islamic Emirate's vision of promoting private investment as a cornerstone of national progress. If similar initiatives are undertaken in other sectors, Afghanistan could gradually build a diversified and resilient economy, driven by local and international investors who see the country not only as a market but also as a partner in growth.